DUST NUISANCE—TRICHUR

63. Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Will Government be pleased to state whether any measures have been contemplated to combat the dust nuisance in the Trichur Town ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* A Scheme for the dustless surfacing of the trunk roads in Trichur Town was prepared in 1116 and the question was seriously considered last year. Due to the difficulty in obtaining bitumen on account of the present war conditions, the matter has been postponed for consideration after the war.

GOVERNMENT SERVANTS BELOW Rs. 15

64. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state whether any Government Servants are paid below Rs. 15 per mensem; if so who are they; will Government make it a rule that no Government servant will be paid less than Rs. 15 per mensem ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* There are menials, Constables, Peons of the Excise Preventive Force, etc., on pay below Rs. 15. All Superior servants are on a pay above Rs. 15. Enhancement of minimum pay of menials and the like, who alone are now drawing below Rs. 15 to Rs. 15, involves a slight revision of pay of the lower grades of posts in the clerical and other lines. The question has then to be taken up as a general one. So long as the present times are concerned Government are granting adequate amounts of dearness allowance.

DEVELOPMENT OF PLANTING—STEPS FOR

65. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have done anything during the past five years for the development of planting in the State; if so what are they;

(*b*) what are the respective areas under rubber, tea, coffee and cardamom in the Cochin State;

(*c*) has any land been leased for planting to a born Cochinite in the past five years; if so, how much and in what bits; were there no applications; why were they not sanctioned ?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* (*a*) The Government had no occasion to do anything in particular for the development of planting in the State during the period under reference except to make some land available for the purpose. About 600 acres were sanctioned to be leased for raising plantations during the period.

(*b*) The figures for Cochin are given below. Those for Travancore are not available.

Cochin

Crop	*Total acres*
Rubber	12881·19
Tea	4241·67
Coffee	2316·19
Cardamom	1123·72

(*c*) No. There is one application which is under consideration.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

66. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have noted in the "Mail", dated 2nd July 1943 in the last column of page 2 a news item under the caption "Dearness allowance" stating a brief summary of the announcement of Government of Madras the rates of the enhanced dearness allowance;

(*b*) whether our Government is going to enhance the existing rates of dearness allowance and if so the rates in the case of each category of officers including the low paid and menial staff ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The rates of dearness allowance have been increased with effect from 1st Karkadagam 1118. All full-time officers drawing a pay of Rs. 60 and less will be eligible for a dearness allowance of Rs. 6 per mensem. Part-time employees who draw Rs. 6 and above will also get a dearness allowance of Rs. 6. Those who draw less than Rs. 6 will get Dearness Allowance equal to their pay.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly